

Oak Grove, La.

4/5/53

Sour Lake, Texas

3/27/55

Groves, Texas

11/2/58

Bridge City, Texas

8/19/62

Vidor, Texas

2/7/65

Anahuac TX

4/14/91 M+N

THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (CONT)

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Introduction:

1. We continue the lesson begun last week with our study of the MODEL CHURCH IN JERUSALEM.
2. Review briefly the previous lesson.

BODY:

5. EXAMPLE IN LIBERALITY: STEWARDSHIP:

continued steadfastly in fellowship
Acts 2:42--~~"and gave according to the need."~~

This has already been mentioned in discussion of unity. Yet allow us to broaden out the thought.

The Lord's body has always been commanded to give unto the work of the church, yet has left it up to the individual as to how much to give. *Body - Church is business*

1 Cor 16:2--"Upon the first day of the week let each...; ..as he may prosper..."

2 Cor 9:6-9--Not grudgingly or of necessity, as purposed in heart..

They did not allow anyone to lack of the necessities. We are stewards of that which we possess.

Let us use our talents, possessions, wisely and see that the work of the Lord continues.

6. A SOCIAL CHURCH:

Acts 2:46--"breaking bread from house to house"

They were hospitable, friendly, to one another.

They did not think themselves better than others.

Many today think themselves better than others, but 'the ground is level at the foot of the cross'.

Christ said, "the low would be made high, and the high would be made low."

There were no such thing as social factions in this body.

Today in the religious world we see certain divisions in the denominations which exclude others.

No place in the body of the Lord for social barriers.

7. A SIMPLE CHURCH:

All Equal in the sight of all.

When church building get to where poor feel ill at ease and the rich feel proud then they get too big.

This is a danger which the Church faces today.

We need to go to worship instead of going to church.

Too often we go to church and not to worship God.

That is the reason why nothing is gained, no great desire to ~~to~~ be there.

Some are so slack about their worship, we wonder if it would bother them if the doors of the church would be closed.

8. A REVERENT CHURCH:

Acts 2:43--"And fear came upon every soul"

There had enough happened to bring each soul to reverence. When God called Moses up the mountain the people were filled with fear, awe, reverence.

We need to realize the power of the hand of the Lord and be filled with a reverent awe.

If we had a little more reverence for the Lord we would be filled with a desire to please Him and not self. We would conduct ourselves a little more reverent also.

9. A WELLORGANIZED CHURCH:

Elders --- Acts 15:6; 15:22; 11:29,30.

Deacons---Acts 6:1-6

These offices filled by the commands of God.

10. AN EVANGELIST CHURCH:

Not only a single one whom they called the preacher.

Acts 8:4--"They went everywhere preaching the Word."

Acts 8:14--Sent Peter and John to Samaria.

Acts 11:22--Sent Barabas to Antioch.

Using every opportunity to preach the Word of Christ.

11. A GROWING CHURCH:

Is there any wonder that this was a growing church?

Acts 2:41--3000 added in the beginning.

Acts 4:4--Number rose to about 5000.

Acts 5:14--"Multitudes of both men and women added."

Acts 6:1--"Number of the disciples was multiplying"

Acts 6:7--"the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly"

We don't wonder and marvel that this church grew.

A church that had the characteristics of this early church cannot help growing.

A church that is willing to pay the price to see it grow like as did these early Christians will have exceptional results also.

CONCLUSION:

1. How did men become members of the Jerusalem church????
Acts 2:36-38; 4:1-47; Acts 3:19; 6:7. obedient to faith.
2. This is the same way that people become members of the church today.
3. You should have a longing desire to be a member of the same group as these early Christians.
4. Salvation was in sight of all of them.